

Death is birth

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DEATH IS BIRTH,

OR

THE OUTCOME OF TRANSITION.

BY

H. A. BUDINGTON.

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PREFACE.

This pamphlet of twenty eight pages, contains a condensed statement of the reports of apparently truthful and intelligent spirits which have been made to the author at various times, concerning the nature of death, and what follows.

It is hoped that the reading of it will awaken a desire to investigate spirit return, and emancipate the mind from the gloomy view of death, which darkens the future of millions of the human race.

H. A. BUDINGTON.



DEATH IS BIRTH.

OBJECT OF EARTH LIFE.

Man is a product of the earth, just as much as is an orange. First nebulous matter condenses and forms the solar globe. Our earth is born of this globe. Eons of time pass as the earth is cooling and making ready for the production of organic life.

The order is, first protoplasmic life; then vegetable life, then animal life.

The first man was but little superior to his animal ancestor. Ages pass before man develops the front brain, made necessary for his protection from his hostile environment. Thinking how to live better and how to make better homes, better weapons, better tools, makes deposits of cells upon the front brain convolutions, and his head gradually changes; more front brain, less back brain.

At last he discovers that he is placed upon this earth to prepare for a higher life—the spiritual life, the life after death, which is the next stage in his evolution.

All this struggle to live, all this effort to protect himself from the hostile forces of nature, climate, cold, heat, hunger, and mental stagnation, are so many disciplinary means which lift man higher in his mental and spiritual aspirations.

Finally he arrives at full age. Nearly a century of earth life—nearly a century of contact with earth matter, of study on its nature and its laws, of reflection on its fruitful lessons of experience, has ripened him for the spiritual life. He has seen a generation pass on to the invisible world. The

graves of his friends are scattered over the land. He has seen his earth ties loosened. Lonely and decrepid, he no longer clings to earth. His thoughts are turned to the world of light and beauty, from which he has heard. Friends from the happy land beckon to him. He lies down upon the couch of death. In the morning the body is dead. Then follows the funeral, and the body is consigned to the grave.

CREMATION.

How much better would be cremation. Cremation is neat, clean, pure and healthy. It leaves nothing but ashes to fall upon the soil.

Burial fills the air with impure gases. Burial pollutes the water of the earth. Burial spreads disease germs abroad and causes some of the living to be afflicted with like diseases. Burial makes a bad use of land, which should be occupied for homes, for agriculture, and for other purposes, useful to the living.

Cremation is less expensive, hence a blessing to the poor. Funeral expenses should be kept down, and property left by the dying, devoted to the good of the living.

But some will say, will not the cremation of the body hinder the resurrection of the body in the last day?

In answer, I will say if the doctrine of the final resurrection of the body is true, cremation would make no difference, for in earth burial after a few years, there is nothing but bones and hair, and even these fall to pieces in coming to the air, after a century of deposit.

The human body is three quarters water. All that evaporates. The roots of trees often enter the coffins and absorb all that is nourishing to them. In a few hundred years, there is not as much left of even the bones, as is left after cremation. If the spirit wanted to clothe itself again with the particles which once composed its earth body, it could attract those particles just as easily from the earth and atmosphere, after cremation as after burial.

But is it sensible to believe that a spirit like Moses, who has lived four thousand years, without his earth body will ever desire to again put it on? I think not. Those passages in the New Testament which treat of the resurrection, should refer to the rising of the spirit *out of* the earth body; they should not refer to any resurrection of the actual physical body.

My studies and discoveries in spiritual science, enforced by messages from my spirit friends, have compelled me to conclude that there is to be no resurrection of the old body; all that ever rises from the body, rises at death. Death makes a complete and everlasting separation between the earth body and the spirit body. We shall never have any further use for our earth bodies, hence let them be reduced to ashes.

We have many messages from spirits, saying it is pleasing to them to have their earth bodies cremated. It helps to sever them from earth bound conditions. To them the old body is a subject of loathing, especially when one has passed out of it from disease. They rejoice to have it consumed by fire. It helps to free them so they can progress more rapidly.

MOURNING AT THE GRAVE.

The habit of going to the grave and mourning over the ascended ones, causes your spirit friends mental suffering. They do not wish you to linger and mourn over the dead body which they were so glad to be freed from.

While they are pleased at your tender love in placing flowers upon their graves from Sunday to Sunday, for months and sometimes for years, they would be much better pleased if you would place these flowers near a picture of the departed one, and have it hung in the room most frequented, so spirit and mortal could both enjoy the flowers.

Do not think your ascended darling is at or near the grave. The spirit seldom or never visits the place of the decaying body unless you go there; and its only reason for going there when you go, is to impress you with its love and to comfort you. Far happier would your spirit friend be if you would forget the body, and remember only the beautiful and loving one who daily visits you in your home and blesses you with a calm and uplifting spirit influence every time you place flowers near the picture or other memento. Do not weep at the grave but make your home so sweet, so peaceful, so harmonious that they will daily bless you with their heavenly influence.

DO NOT HASTILY PACK IN ICE.

The ignorance of the undertaker often causes pain to the spirit. When the pulse ceases to beat the spirit does not always immediately quit the body. The process of spirit birth sometimes lasts for several hours. It is never safe to expose the body to

cold, or the ice pack as long as any animal heat remains in the body.

The undertaker should not begin his work until the body is cold. Place the body in an easy and natural position in the bed, with arms and hands lying naturally. Let the body lie covered with the same bed clothes, as before death. Open the window if the weather be not too cold; close the room and do not go in for some time. Leave the body and arising spirit with angel attendants. They know best how to withdraw the spirit from the cooling body. By a subtle law of separation not understood by mortals, guardians help to extract all the forces and needed particles of spiritual substances from the body and complete the new body of the nascent spirit. This process is going on while the body is cooling and if the room is quiet, and all weeping earth friends are away, the process of dying is soothing and pleasant to the subject. So do not hasten to expose the body to currents of cold air, nor pack in ice till the process of nature is complete.

Many messages have been sent back by spirits who have suffered a painful shock by placing their bodies in ice before the spirit had fully withdrawn.

SPIRIT BIRTH OF A GOOD MAN.

Now let us turn our attention to the beautiful process of spirit birth. The breath ceases. Then out from the head issues a fine, luminous, throbbing vapor. It comes from the nervous system, leaving the feet and hands first and concentrating upon the brain from which it issues; this vapor is real substance. It is of the same nature as the finest ether in space, only in this instance it is organized and retains its

power to hold its organization after separation from the corpse.

This luminous cloud of vapor rises above the head of the still body. In a short time, from the center of this luminous ball of vapor, emerges the new head, then the shoulders and body after, and lastly, the hands and feet. In due time the new body is complete, having withdrawn from the corpse. Usually when the corpse is cold, the new body has fully withdrawn. A little cord of this vapor which has connected the new body with the head of the corpse is now snapped and the man is free to pass up to the spheres surrounding the planet.

The man is usually unconscious during the first hours of spirit birth, (though some are very transiently so) but at length he becomes conscious and finds himself surrounded by old friends who have passed on before. They stand by his side in the room, when he passes through the change.

They show him the old body, lying cold and motionless on the bed. He sees weeping relations and in his joy of life, pities them, and would tell them he is well and beg them not to mourn. His newly found friends inform him that he cannot gain their attention and gently persuade him to go with them.

With kind hearts, they lead him up through the air, moving by power of will till they reach the sphere on which he is to dwell. Here is a beautiful house which has been prepared for him; he is placed in it and told that this is to be his present home. He wanders about his new home with freedom. He finds his rooms furnished with many mementos of his earth home. All the objects he loved on earth

which are of use to him now, are reproduced. There are his beloved wife, his children, and his parents who have preceded him. They come forward to greet him.

Around his home are the trees, the flowers, the waters he loved on earth; not perhaps just as they were, but similar. The skies are bluer, the clouds tinged with a finer golden hue, the birds sing sweeter, the brook babbles more joyously.

He is now free from the old body, the old pain, the old limitations. He grows strong. His music, his pictures, his statuary are here, and sweet singers fill the air with welcome melody. Life is now to begin in earnest. All the struggles of earth are now seen to be preparatory lessons. He can visit the schools of spirit life, and sit at the feet of teachers who have spent many centuries in gaining knowledge.

The sphere on which he now lives is a hollow one, surrounding our planet, and at some distance from it. His home, for a certain period of time is on the exterior surface of this hollow sphere. This sphere is made of refined matter, probably the emanations from our planet. It is real substance, just as solid to him as our ground is to us. On it he walks; on it grow trees and flowers; on it are seas, rivers and mountains, valleys and plains. All of earth scenery is represented only in refined form.

The grass is like velvet; when well kept it is softer than the finest velvet. The roses are far beyond our conception of beauty. All kinds of harmless birds and animals are to be found there.

In fact our friend is now in a real world, filled with all that can please and instruct. His bad passions have been outgrown while on earth; his appetites are few, only the healthy and refined surviving, the others having been eliminated before death. The purest waters are a sufficient drink—the most etherealized fruit, a sufficient food.

His body, like a mirror, reflects his thoughts. It shines with the light of his spiritualized intellect and sympathetic heart. He is pure in thought, and his spirit body purer than the whitest alabaster. He knows that all his thoughts will make a stamp upon his spirit body; hence he thinks only good thoughts and is filled with a desire to do good deeds.

When he thinks of his earth friends, he wishes to impart to them some of the good he enjoys. He makes frequent visits to his earth friends, and tries to impress them with a love of the good and true. He grieves if he sees them doing wrong, and rejoices when they do right.

This is the outcome of death for the good. It is life unceasingly, more pure and beautiful. No one truly lives until he has passed through death. Nothing on earth is so beautiful as the spirit birth of a good person. It is a birth into a glorious life. It is being ushered into a world of supernal beauty, to be introduced into a school, taught by the wise and good of all the past.

DO NOT WEEP AT THE BEDSIDE OF THE DYING.

Friends should not stand around the bedside of the dying and indulge in weeping and loud lamentations; nor should they earnestly wish that the dying one should stay longer.

If the sufferer is being forced out of the body by a painful disease, his pain is prolonged by the anguish of his friends. It makes him, under their psychological influence, remain hours longer than he need to, and by so doing prolongs his suffering.

When you are convinced that your friend is to die and the process has begun, send away all but a chosen few, who can remain calm and without wish for his longer remaining in the body. Join hands with each other, forming a circle around the bed, each end of the horse shoe circle taking a hand of the dying one, and gently sing in a low, soft, dreamy manner a favorite song of the ascending one. Kindly and sweetly bid him trust to his angel friends who have come for him.

Often, as he nears the time of leaving the body, his spirit eyes will be opened and he will see the shining ones, whose resplendent beauty and assuring smiles will increase his confidence and willingness to join them.

Let there be no weeping : sing, and as you sing wish that the dying one may go to his rest.

EVERLASTING LIFE.

Some will say, granted that we live after death of the earth body, have we any evidence that the spirit personality will always continue to exist?

In answer I will say, that we have messages from spirits who claim to have lived in spirit life for forty centuries, and they affirm that they see, as yet, no prospect of annihilation.

This is not conclusive evidence it is true, but inasmuch as we can prove that the spirit body as an

organism does survive the shock of physical death on this planet, it is not probable that it will experience any future shock that will be any severer test to the organism, for, with each century of life in the spirit world, the spirit acquires more will power, more ability to resist any hostile environment to the persistence of its organism.

Therefore it is reasonable to suppose that a spirit will never lose its personality. The ripening process of spirit life will doubtless raise the spirit body to a higher tension, enlarge its capacity of protecting itself, and enable the mind enthroned within, to solve the vaster problems of nature, and exert its will over the domains of the lower and inferior organisms of the universe. The spirit will become so advanced that it will finally be able to modify the construction of worlds.

THE SPIRIT BODY IS WITHIN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

If you were to cut off your finger, you would still have a finger there. You cut off the finger you see, but you do not cut off the finger you do not see.

This is often well illustrated in the experience of people who have had a leg or arm amputated. They say they sometimes feel the arm or leg which they know has been cut off. What they really feel is the spirit leg or arm.

The spirit body fills the nervous system. You may prick your body anywhere with the finest cambric needle and you will feel it, because there is a nerve there. So when a finger is cut off, the spirit finger still remains.

The real spirit man lives in the nervous system all the time previous to his physical death. There

are spirit eyes inside of our physical eyes. There are spirit ears inside our physical ears. There is a spirit brain inside our physical brain. There is a spirit hair inside of every physical hair. Bald headed people are not bald to spirit vision. The spirit hair is all there. There is spirit blood within physical blood. There are spirit bones within physical bones, etc. Every part of the physical body is permeated by the spirit body.

When I speak of the spirit body I mean a material body, made of exceedingly refined matter, which is fed by the spirit part of our food. It is the master and the physical body is its servant. It is in the protoplasmic germ of the embryo child, and forms and fashions the growing foetus, only limited by the spiritual and material environment.

The spirit body develops the material body, calling for such food and drink, exercise and experience as will enable it to control the body, and extract the most useful lessons from its life on the earth. When the spirit body is hampered by unfortunate heredity or inability to draw to the support of itself, proper conditions, it goes through life dwarfed, maimed and undeveloped. But in spirit life, the spirit body rapidly recovers from the earth limitations. The spirit body is never long deformed; it is not lame, it is not dumb or deaf, very long.

Spirit life and spirit education soon bring earth's unfortunates into harmony with the higher life and they progress out into beauty of form and brightness of mind.

INFANTICIDE.

There is a sad retribution in store for mothers who kill their unborn children. Such mothers think they will never have to meet such little waifs, *but they will*. Every one of them is alive in the spirit world, and what is more, they are taught to know who killed them. Long years of deep anguish await mothers when they go to spirit life and find they were murderers of unborn children.

Never arrest the processes of maternity; once a child is conceived, let it be born naturally, no matter what the earthly consequences may be. Worse than a red hot iron *burning through the throbbing heart* of a woman, will be the suffering of that woman who has committed infanticide. If you do not want children, cease to generate them.

HEREDITY AS SEEN FROM SPIRIT LIFE.

When people are born with hereditary limitations, great care should be taken to eliminate such defects. Often the taint clings to the spirit for years after death. On this point let me quote a passage, showing the persistence of heredity on a religious mind.*

"He then cited an instance of a child, born of a Catholic widow, whose husband passed away a few months before its birth. Her time during pregnancy, was spent in praying to the Virgin, in counting beads and in attending mass; every element of her being thrilled with the Catholic faith. The idea of paying for the progression of her husband through purgatory, made her careless of

* Extract from "LEAFLETS FROM THE BEYOND" by spirit Gilbert Haven, Carrie Twing, medium. H. A. Budington, publisher, 91 Sherman st., Springfield, Mass. Price 10 cents, postage, 1 cent.

her own wants, and of the proper preparations for motherhood. When her babe was born, the mother passed to spirit life.

A woman—not a Catholic or believer in any special religion, who had sheltered and cared for the mother, adopted the child, and removed it from every influence of any belief save that of broad Unitarianism. The child attended that kind of Sunday School.

The woman soon found that the child was crossing herself in her Sunday School, and listening to the Catholic church bells with a reverence that no other sound awakened. A string of beads was given her by a friend, and often was the child found on her knees counting them, without knowing the significance of the act.

Puzzled to know what to do, the foster mother removed the child far from all Catholic influences, but the child was a devoted Catholic without knowing the meaning of the religion, until she came to spirit life.

When met by her mother she asked, 'What is it oh, mother that I hear? what is it that I feel? what is it that I want? there are elements in my life I cannot understand.'

Thus the mother, who had in her years of spirit life, broken in a measure the chains which had bound her and was living in comparative calm, had before her in the inheritance she had given her own child, something to overcome.

When told that in the great realm of spirit, bondage to any idea that belittles and limits the Infinite is not thought best, and is easily set aside, the girl replied, 'It is what is in me. I want the crosses; I want the bells. I want the black robed people kneeling all around. I've seen them always. I must find the place where they stay.'

No doubt there are thousands of such instances where Catholicism is either direct heredity or the product of ante-natal conditions. Such spirits are haunting the school rooms of earth and throwing their strong psy-

chological power over the children to make all turn their gains into the Catholic church.

To call deceit, truth, and stealing, honest, is the influence of such inherited tendencies. With an education that will contradict inherited tendency, these results may in a measure be avoided. Yet hundreds of years in spirit life will find some of these victims in chains."

RIGHT GESTATION.

Here is another extract from the same book.

"A young couple entered upon the marriage relation, who were both singularly plain looking, and came from very plain, even coarse looking families; it was never remembered of them that one in either family had been called handsome. The woman in particular was of coarse type, very high cheek bones, sunken eyes and angular form. She was married at twenty seven years of age, to a man of small stature, receding forehead, muddy complexion and hair of indescribable color.

But in spite of all these untoward conditions, there was an innate sense that nature had a revelation for the most humble. They had married, not from ambition, but from a deep respect for the real worth of the other. They realized the sacredness of fatherhood and motherhood, and determined to so regulate their lives, that if children were born, they should as nearly as possible, come up to the standard of their ideal.

On finding herself pregnant, the mother began to think of the fœtus as a girl; and to dream of it as a girl; and two pictures of her ideal of sweet girlhood were always where her eyes could fall upon them when she was resting.

At her work she had books of poems near, in which she could read a little at times and catch beautiful thoughts. She would refuse to witness exciting scenes or listen to that which was unpleasant about her neighbors. All newspapers which contained reports of the sins and

crimes of people, she ignored, and placed in the hands of her husband, and he read to her only the pleasant and progressive thoughts. If in science, art or literature, there had been new achievements, they were related with delight.

This couple were poor, but they wished to know if good ante-natal conditions could bring desired results. The mother did not wear out her nerves, working upon an extravagant wardrobe for the coming child, but plain garments were made. Plain, practical thoughts of life's duties and responsibilities were mingled with ideas of a more poetic nature.

Thus the months sped away until the crown of motherhood rested upon that homely woman: and such a crown! The child was as perfect in form and feature as their minds could conceive of; and when the sunshine of intelligence began to beam from those eyes, blue as the heavens, and the mouth to question, it was as though a superior being guided it."

LOCATION OF THE SPIRIT SPHERES.

Surrounding our planet, at different distances, are hollow spheres, like egg shells. The first one is nearest our planet; the second further off, enclosing the first one; the third one still further off, enclosing the previous two, and so on.

These hollow spheres are made of material substance, yet of so refined matter that they offer no obstruction to the passage of solar energy which produces light. These spheres are quite thin and are probably the result of emanations from our planet.

On the exterior surfaces of these spheres, dwell for a time, spirits, who have once lived as mortals on this earth.

The first sphere is coarser and more gross than are the succeeding ones. Each sphere further on, is more refined than the preceding one. The scenery of earth is reproduced on these spheres, land, water, mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes, oceans, vegetation, some animal life and beautiful skies.

The space between the spheres is filled with air of the same composition as our own air, only it is more refined. In this refined atmosphere, violent wind storms and electric cyclones are unknown. On these spheres are grown refined fruits, similar in nature but exceedingly more exquisite. Flowers bloom in such perfection that nothing on earth can be compared with them.

How many of these are a part of this planet remains to be discovered. So far, my inquiries on this subject have met with no satisfactory answer. There are enough of them to supply homes for all the inhabitants of earth who have ever lived or will be born, for we are informed that after a sufficient development, spirits can pass off from the outermost sphere, dwell in the inter-stellar spaces and visit remote stars and planets in other systems.

All the substances which compose our earth also exist in a refined state, in the spheres. Nature has furnished openings in these spheres, through which spirits pass from one to another.

ON WHICH SPHERE SHALL WE DWELL IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEATH.

An undeveloped person, who has lived a vicious life, one who has neglected to cultivate the best

that is in him, will go to the first sphere. Here he will find murderers, thieves, drunkards, prostitutes, suicides, misers, in fact the low, the depraved, the victims of any unnatural passion or habit.

But he will also find that such persons are not obliged to remain always in the first sphere. By reforming their lives, by aspiring to better conduct, by help from higher spirits, they can advance morally, mentally, and spiritually until they are fitted to enter the second sphere.

Persons who have lived a good life, but have little mental development, go to the second sphere. Children are mostly found there soon after spirit birth.

Persons who have made good use of this life, and cultivated their talents, becoming pure and enlightened will pass at spirit birth, to the third sphere.

In some instances, a person may advance so far in moral, intellectual and spiritual development while on earth, as to be fitted for the fourth sphere at transition.

Progress goes on in spirit life with increasing rate as a spirit advances from one sphere to another.

WHAT SHALL WE DO IN HEAVEN?

The first duty for one to engage in after transition, is to remove the obstructions to the growth of his soul. To do this he must make reparation to all whom he has injured. Most spirits find this school of reparation, a needed discipline. Spirits go back often to earth life, mingle with their fellow men, try to impress them with a desire to do good, to perform acts of benevolence. Good spirits try to restrain criminals as much as possible. They comfort the sorrowing by throwing a spiritual influence into their hearts.

If a spirit while on earth, wronged any one, he must in all ways possible try to redress that wrong by some act of kindness.

A spirit mother spends much of her time with her children on earth : and if any one of them is going astray, she labors earnestly to impress that one to turn into the path of right.

BAD HABITS LAST AFTER DEATH.

All bad habits formed in earth life continue with the spirit for a time after transition. If a man was a drunkard on earth he will be afflicted with the same appetite until he overcomes it in spirit life. If a miser on earth, he will feel pangs of anguish at seeing his treasures scattered by his heirs. If an opium victim on earth, he will find the appetite still scourging him. If a victim of tobacco, he will be unhappy in spirit life until the appetite is overcome.

All abnormal appetites and passions inhere in the spiritual part of man. The desire is in the part that survives death. Death liberates the man from his physical body, but it does not free him from abnormal appetites and passions. He must make most strenuous efforts in spirit life, (usually attended with keen regret) to rid himself of these impediments.

Long years in spirit life are often spent in overcoming the degrading influence of these habits.

But by persistence of effort and the sympathizing help of purer spirits, the sufferer is at last emancipated from the slavery of unnatural appetites and passions and ready to make progress in the higher life.

But what a waste of time, what weakness of will must surely be the lot of all who make these mistakes while on earth. How much better while here to evolve out of these abnormal habits.

MUSIC IN THE SPHERES.

To those who bring to spirit life a love of music, will be afforded every opportunity to cultivate their love of song. Great conventions of musicians are held where are reproduced the grandest of earth's music, together with symphonies composed in heaven which are still more glorious. All instruments, which are best on earth, are duplicated in spirit life, but as much more refined and harmonious as heaven is better than earth.

ART IN HEAVEN.

No lover of art on earth will be disappointed in his cherished hope to produce on canvas his highest ideals, in the spirit world. Renowned masters of painting and sculpture are there, ready to teach. The finest works of the brush or chisel on earth are crude and coarse compared to the exquisite painting and statuary which can be seen in the numerous art galleries of the upper spheres. Spirit artists know how to blend colors and place them on canvas with a skill which can never be equalled on earth. Nature in the higher spheres is the very incarnation of beauty. The artists of thousands of years have so far advanced as to imitate scenes in nature so perfectly that looking at a brook on a spirit canvas one can almost hear it sing.

As angel forms are beautiful beyond human conception, so angel statuary is equally supernal. Art study in heaven is open to all who desire.

POETRY IN HEAVEN.

The poets of earth who charmed its people with lyric, epic and drama, are still singing in heaven.

Homer, Virgil, Horace, Sappho, Dante, Shakespeare, Scott, Byron, Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats, Tennyson, Whittier, Longfellow, Emerson, Holmes, Bryant and many others are still wooing the muses.

On verdant banks of sparkling rivers, on shores of vast seas, in shadows of lofty mountains, in fragrant woods, in flowery gardens of Edenic beauty, are these poets and hundreds of others, who will help to spiritualize the inhabitants of that upper country for centuries to come. Freed from the shackles of earth, with expanded minds and marvellous spiritual vision, they sing in perfect verse, of the resplendent beauty of nature in the spheres, of the glorious souls who have come up out of the pain and martyrdom of earth life, and now with beautiful bodies and still more beautiful minds, are searching out the secrets of nature, journeying among the planets of our solar system and bringing back the mind treasures of the universe.

Poets will sing in heaven; greater themes will engage their thoughts and grander poems will they write than could be written on earth, for they live in an aura of supernal beauty, wisdom, love and spiritual refinement.

THE WORLD'S MARTYRS.

Bright shall be the record of earth's martyrs in heaven. All who have devoted their lives to unselfish labor for the good of their fellow men, whether in political, religious or reformatory fields, will find in spirit life, full compensation for all their unappreciated and unrequited labors.

The founders of the great systems of religion, Zoroaster, Fo, Buddha, Brahma, Confucius, Jesus,

Mohammed ; the statesmen and reformers, who have founded nations and advanced civilization, to be themselves condemned and often tortured and murdered by thumbscrew, rack, dungeon, fire, gibbet or hemlock, have all found a welcome appreciation in the spheres. Every pang of anguish they have felt in their efforts to help mankind to attain to a higher plain of development, they have found changed to a gem of beauty, shining in the walls of their heavenly homes. Wilberforce, Howard, Fenelon, Marcus Antoninus, Socrates, O'Connell, Lincoln, Garrison, Phillips, Lovejoy, John Brown and many others are all now in those glorious spheres, where wisdom is sought for the good of all, and daily their altruistic minds are reflecting upon humanity new methods of advancement.

SCIENCE IN HEAVEN.

Earthly science is a good thing as far as it goes. But in the higher spirit spheres, science leaps with gigantic strides far above any attainment of earth. Great thinkers on the problems of matter and mind, are in vast assemblies, discussing and solving new mysteries daily.

Alone in their studies, laboratories, and observatories, they are discovering new laws of nature, new combinations of the elements and assisting in the formation of new worlds. The mysterious laws and nature of the electric force is a fascinating subject to these Godlike minds.

Now and then, they are able to reflect back upon earth a hint of their discoveries; and when sensitives like Edison and Tesla are found, something of their knowledge is transmitted to earth for our benefit.

Probably many of our inventions are flashed upon the minds of sensitives on earth, from such scientific discoverers in spirit life.

STATESMEN IN SPIRIT LIFE.

Think not that the world's great statesmen are idle in spirit life. The same abilities, the same love of country and of mankind goes with them to spirit life. They see more clearly than before, the world's needs, the needs of their own nations.

Great political congresses are in session in the higher spheres, in which are discussed the deep problems of labor, liberty and right government, how to give the people more freedom, how to make life less a hardship, how to emancipate the minds of people from hereditary error.

Over our United States is held a special congress, attended by the statesmen and patriots of our country. Washington is there. Adams, Jefferson, Jackson, Clay, Webster, Sumner, Lincoln, Grant, Lee, all the great men of our Republic who have ascended to the higher life, are constantly engaged in devising methods for the betterment of our nation. They bring to bear their concentrated influence upon our earth congress and try to so direct the minds of our law makers, as to cause them to enact better laws.

Each nation of the earth has a special congress in spirit life to aid its people.

PRIESTS AND CLERGYMEN IN SPIRIT LIFE.

For a long time after transition, many priests and clergymen of various denominations are engaged in emancipating their own minds from theological errors. Finding that spirit life is different from

what they expected—finding that their pet dogmas are false—they are filled with regret, and make earnest effort, through every channel they can enter, to correct in the minds of earth people, the wrong they have left behind. They also preach to spirits who have not yet thrown off their inherited or acquired, false religious opinions, and help to lead them to the light.

On the other hand, there are numbers of priests and clergymen in spirit life who do not change their religious opinions for a time. These preach to convocations of devotees, similar to those to which they ministered in earth life, and strive to perpetuate their old dogmas.

Especially do the the laity of the Roman Catholic church persist in their error; and for many years in spirit life continue under the mental sway of their priests.

But finally they all break away from their childish faiths and advance to those spheres where there are no sects, where all are inspired with admiration for the wonderful phenomena of a universe, self-sustained by inherent force and inherent order.

MATERIALISTS SURPRISED ON ENTERING SPIRIT LIFE.

OTHERS DENY THAT THEY ARE DEAD.

Those persons who had a fixed belief in personal destruction at death, are often times hard to convince that they are dead. Expecting annihilation and finding themselves still alive, they at first conclude that they are not dead; and if they see people whom they knew to have died in previous years, they believe themselves hallucinated: that the brain is abnormal.

These spirits will often for weeks assert that they are still in the physical body and that spirit friends, who are surrounding them and trying to persuade them that they are now in spirit life, are not real, but merely phantoms of their disordered minds. Such spirits have been known to control mediums and yet deny that they had left their earth bodies.

There are numbers of spirits, both Materialists and others, who for some time do not know that they have passed the border.

But sometimes such persons quickly realize that they are alive after death, and the joy they feel in finding that death did not destroy them, is intense. Here is an instance of this kind: My brother, Birney M. Budington was a Materialist. He used to say, "There is nothing after death: that is the end: all you Spiritualists are deceived: you are deluded people: the mediums are knaves and sharpers: when we die that is the end of us: there are no spirits."

In July, 1892 he was born into spirit life. A few days after, another brother, who had been in spirit life for twenty five years, reported to me by the hand of Carrie Twing, the scene of the transition of my materialist brother. He wrote thus:—

"It was a scene that even those upon this side will remember as a revelation of just how surprised a man may be, who expected annihilation, and awakened over here to emancipation and perfect gladness, or as near gladness as could be with such a surprised condition as he was in.

A few days before he came, we saw that he was letting go of the body; but he would not have been free yet if he had had entirely his right mind; but we put him back in the old dreamy days of his childhood; he was made to feel that he was at the old home, and that we

were all there, and in that passive condition, he could be better taken out of the old shell. He saw us with his eyes closed: when he was too tired to raise the lids, he felt us come and go and somehow was all the time believing himself again in his childhood.

Mother did not leave his side very often for days, unless she went to his children. * * *

Ethel, (a child of his in spirit life) very beautiful and tender, was at his side and nearest to him when the awaking came, and he half mistaking her, said, 'I'm here Bud.' (Pet name for his oldest daughter, in the form) Then looking more closely, he put his new hands to his new face, and said, 'Oh! Sis, (pet name for his wife) its true! here's mother, here's every body. I'm alive! I know I am, its too good!'

And then as he became overcome with his joy, he said: 'Henry's right—Henry was right, and Twing is honest and not a sharper!'

His wonder was almost pitiful to behold, that he could not make Clara (his wife) hear; he reached out to her and said he knew she would hear him; she had heard when he had only whispered before; and tried over and over, until we took him away for a little while, to rest. And such a rest as he had. It brought to mind my own experience after 'life's fitful fever,' only he was up and doing, long before I was.

You will feel our power more than ever before, for you have a new force here. Although his ideas have been directly opposite, yet his natural push will make him overcome in a short time, that which it would take years to accomplish in others.

He was greatly moved, when he clasped hands with Julia (a sister recently passed to spirit life) and his eyes glistened, when he said: 'Julia, this isn't a dream, is it: You don't think that we will wake up and find it a dream?'

I have tried to do as well as I could, and yet there is a volume to write that I might if I could.

CLARENCE."

LITTLE CHILDREN IN SPRIT LIFE.

Mothers, do you expect to find your babes who left you for the higher life, still babes when you meet them in that upper country? If you do, you will be disappointed. Babes grow in heaven; they grow to be men and women. Death does not stop the development of their minds nor the growth of their spiritual bodies.

Babes are cared for by loving, motherly spirits, nurtured and caressed until they grow large enough to attend schools in the spirit world. Here they are taught such lessons as are needful. They are often brought to the homes of their earthly parents, (if such parents are adapted to the aura of the little ones) or to the homes of other people that they may acquire knowledge of earth life.

When you go to the spirit world, your children will know you, though they may have attained to the full stature of men and women.

Even the little waifs of infanticide will all be there, slowly (oh, how slowly!) growing up. They will make beautiful spirits sometime; but what a drawback to their rapid advancement, was their untimely separation from earth life.

WHY NOT DESIRE EARLY TRANSITION?

If heaven is so beautiful, would it not be better to commit suicide and go there?

I answer, NO! We are placed on earth for the purpose of obtaining knowledge through contact with matter on this plane. We need nearly a hundred years of this life's journey to get all the experience useful for us. All who are thrown prematurely out

of the physical body, are deprived in a measure, of that experience, best obtained by living on the earth.

Children passing to spirit life, are never so well environed as are those who remain on earth. Spirit children are brought back and educated as well as possible concerning earth life, but they cannot as easily acquire earthly knowledge as can those who live out the full period of mortal life.

No, it is not well to hurry into spirit life. Live as long as possible here. Obey nature's laws. Try to live a century on earth.

LIFE IN THE HIGHEST SPHERE.

In conclusion, I call your attention to the future that awaits all well developed men and women who have lived virtuous lives here; who have progressed in the spirit spheres until they can transmit their exalted thoughts without the use of language, until they can pass on the ether currents to other planets; until they can create at will, exquisite architecture, painting, sculpture, until they can produce musical harmonies sweeter than the farthest stretch of earthy imagination, until they can modify the process of world building.

These exalted spirits live where there is never a wave of inharmony, where the forces and processes of nature, adorn homes of loveliness so exquisite that life becomes an incarnated poem.

Here in these celestial realms, no sorrow ever enters, no sickness, no weariness. "Life, life, beautiful life" pulses through every heart. Exalting inspirations, profound thoughts are constant companions. Nature with her myriad secrets, opens her

book, and the keen students of these supernal realms can find happiness for eons of time, in reading her treasures of knowledge. To such transcendent beings, the memory of earth life is like a fading dream. Nothing is garnered up from its trials, but the lessons of wisdom that it taught.

We shall live on and on, developing into marvellous beauty of form, brilliancy of mind and tenderness of heart; still always young in vigor, our spirit bodies continually refining, will become invisible to spirits of the lower spheres. The soul increases in power from age to age.

We shall behold the mighty suns of the stellar universe, and floating upon the ether currents, sail off into the abysses of space, passing planet after planet, some being born, some teeming with individualized life, others barren and dissolving back into original star dust, with the consciousness that amid all the cataclysms of matter, the rise and fall of constellations, we shall live on, immortal in body and immortal in mind, everlasting personalities of the universe.

H. A. BUDINGTON.

Springfield, Mass., 1897.



GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN.

BY

GILBERT HAVEN,

Late Bishop of The Methodist Episcopal Church.

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